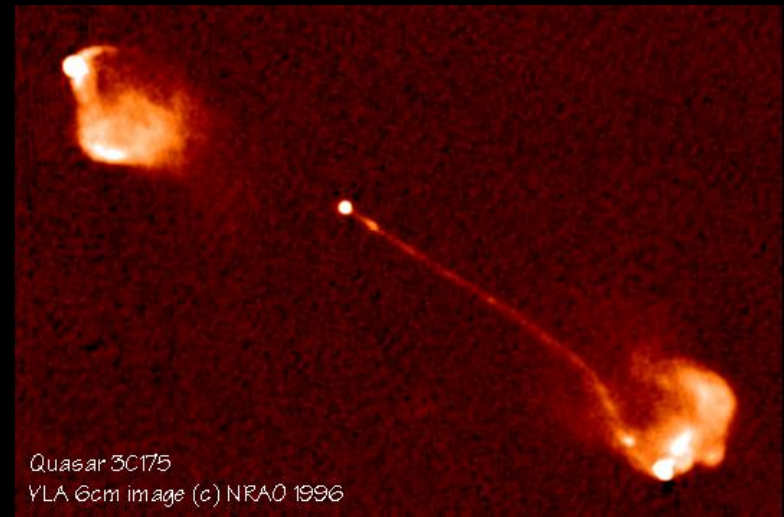


Discovery of Quasars

The first Quasars were discovered in the early 1960's by Allan Sandage and others as point-like sources of radio waves. Quasar is short for Quasi-Stellar Radio Sources. This name was so used because, when optical images were later attached to these sources, they appeared to resemble stars. However, not all quasars are “radio loud” and most do not emit radio waves so the now accepted term is QSO, Quasi-Stellar Object. The spectrum of a QSO shows an immense redshift. One of the first to be discovered, Radio Source 3C 273, shows a redshift of 15.8% implying a recession speed of 47,000 km/s and a distance of 749 Mpc.



Implications

- Increased the distance scale of the Universe by ten-fold
- Shattered the idea of a Steady State Universe
- Displayed energies in excess of any known energy conversion process, including nuclear fusion
- Supported the Big-Bang Theory and expanding space
- Confirmed the gravitational lens effect predicted by Einstein's Theory of General Relativity with the “Double Quasar”

